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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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BRIGADIER GENERAL EMIL CHARLES KIEL, USAF

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Emil C. Kiel was born at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, September 25, 1895. He was graduated from Stout Institute at Menomonie, Wisconsin, in 1917, and in May of that year entered the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. He left the camp in August and two months later enlisted as a flying cadet and began ground school training at Austin, Texas. In January, 1918, he was detailed to the Primary Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas, from which he was graduated March 28, 1918. That same date he was appointed a second lieutenant in the Aviation Section of the Signal Reserve.

His first assignment was as a flying instructor with the 91st Aero Squadron at Mather Field, California. In November, 1919, he became post exchange officer at Mather Field. Shortly afterward he organized the forest fire control for the state of Oregon and following a brief tour of duty at Eugene, Oregon, was transferred to Crissy Field, California, where he served as post adjutant. On July 1, 1920, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Service of the Regular Army, and that same date was promoted to first lieutenant.

In February, 1923, he went to Luke Field, Hawaii, for duty with the Sixth Pursuit Squadron and in March, 1924, became post armament officer at that station. Returning to the United States in February, 1926, he became a flying instructor at the Air Service Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas. A year later he was named Director of Flying at the school and also served as senior instructor in the pursuit and attack sections. In September, 1931, he entered the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama, from which he was graduated the following June. He remained at the school as an instructor in attack aviation until he enrolled in the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in August, 1936. After graduating the following June he was assigned to March Field, California, as commanding officer of the 34th Attack Squadron.

He returned to the Air Corps Tactical School in January, 1939, to take the Special Naval Operations Course, and after completing the course, returned to his duties at March Field. In September, 1939 he was detailed to the Army War College at Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in June, 1940. The following July he was assigned to the Operations and Training Division of the War Department General Staff in Washington. In April, 1941, he was assigned to the office of the Chief of Air Corps at Washington and the following December became chief of staff of the Fourth Air Force at San Francisco, California. In June, 1944, he assumed command of the 318th Wing at Glendale, California, and a month later was reassigned to the Fourth Air Force.

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General Kiel joined the Eighth Air Force in Europe in November, 1944. The following month he was designated deputy commander for administration of the Eighth, with station in London, England, and in July, 1945, became chief of staff. In October 1945, he was named chief of staff of the Eighth Fighter Command. The following March he became commanding general of the 40th Bomb Wing at Erlangen, Germany, and upon deactivation of the unit was named president of two military courts at Dachau, Germany; one involving the Buchenwald atrocity cases.

In December, 1946, General Kiel was assigned to the 12th Tactical Air Command in that theater, and the following April joined the headquarters of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

He returned to the United States in October, 1947, to assume command of Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. In July, 1949, he was appointed commanding general of the 3750th Technical Training Wing at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas, and commander of Sheppard AFB.

General Kiel assumed command of Caribbean Air Command at Albrook AFB, Canal Zone, in November, 1950.

General Kiel has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal. His foreign decorations include the British Commander of the British Empire, and the French Croix de Guerre.

He is rated a Command Pilot, Combat Observer, and Aircraft Observer.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to captain (permanent) on November 25, 1931; to major (temporary) on March 11, 1935; to major (permanent) on August 15, 1939; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on December 30, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on December 18, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on January 5, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on April 27, 1943; to colonel (permanent) on April 2, 1948.

END

Up to date as of 14 November 1950.